4.	Setting up of a local radio station with 1 KW MW Tr., MP studio Receiving facilities and staff quarters at Rairangpur	During IX Plan

Statement-II

T.V. Transmitter projects under implementation in Orissa

	High Power Transitters	*Expected Target date*
(a)	Baleshwar	1997-98
	Sambalpur	-do-
(b)	*Low Power Transmitters*	
	Nayagarh	1997-98
	Sonapur	-do-
	Mohana	-do-
	Kuchinda	-do-
	Tushara/Sainthala	-do-
	Birmitrapur	-do-
	Kabisuryanagar	-do-
	Durgapur	-do-
	Sohela	-do-
	Umarkot	-do-
	Kotpad	-do-
	Gondiya (Kapilas)	-do-
	Khariar	-do-
	Padua	-do-
	Karanjia	-do-
	Kulad	-do-
	Patnagarh	-do-
	Rajgangapur	-do-
	Simlguda	-do-
	Jalpara	-do-
(c)	*Very Low Power Transmitters*	
	Aul	1997-98
	Thaumal Rampur	-do-
	Chitrakonda	-do-
	Badabarbil	-do-
	Barpalli	-do-
	Nagchi	-do-
	Machhkund	-do-
	Kashipur	-do-
	Lanjigarh	-do-
	Jayapatna	-do-
	Simlipalgarh	-do-
	Udaigiri	-do-
	Sukinda	-do-
	Kaksara	-do-
	Kalampur	-do-
(d)	*Transposer*	
	Dhenkanal	1997-98
	Chandipara (Replacement of 1 KW Tr. by 10 KW Tr.)	-do-

Misuse of Protocol Facilities

5. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question 151 in the Rajya Sabha on November 28, 1995 and state:

(a) what are the details of protocol facilities extended to VIPs and top bureaucrats of different departments while clearing their goods without payment of custom duty;

(b) the details of cases where protocol facility has been misused by VIPs and others during the year 1994-95 and so far in 1995-96;

(c) to what extent there has been evasion of customs duty and penalty imposed in each case on detection of misuse of protocol facility; and

(d) what preventive steps Government have so far taken to check smuggling and misuse of the protocol facility at airports in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) The Protocol facilities which are extended to VIPs, such as, Ministers, Members of Parliament, Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts, persons of emmunence in

any prominent field, other dignitaries, senior civil servants and to children, aged and impaired passengers cannot expeditious clearance of their baggage after securing compliance with normal customs procedure and payment of customs duty wherever required.

(b) and (c) A statement giving details of cases where extension of protocol facilities occasioned payment of custom duty and any other penal action, is annexed herewith (*see* below).

(d) with a view to prevent smuggling and evasion of payment of customs duty, the department has set up at each Airport, an Intelligence Unit staffed by trained and experienced officers who provide inputs for purposes of customs check of incoming and out-going passengers and their baggage, passenger profoles are also used for this purpose. In addition X-ray machines have been installed at all major International airports which are used for screening passenger baggage on the basis of intelligence as well as random selection. Officers of Intelligence Unit also maintain general surveillance on the passengers and visitors.

Statement

Except in international airport at Delhi, no other airport has reported any misuse of protocol facilities during the years 1994-95 and 1995-96. Details of the cases wherein passengers' baggage was subjected to customs duty and penal action after due examination, even while protocol facilities were extended, are given below:

(i) On 18.10.1994, Dr. R. Sridharan, M.P. requested for protocol facilities for receiving two passengers by name Shri M.M. Hameem and Shri M. Ravichandran. They were, however, intercepted on their arrival from Hong Kong carrying 552 pieces of Computer Hard Discs valued at Rs. 44.81 lakhs. In addition, they carried 363 gms. of gold jewellery valued at Rs. 1.07 lakhs. During interrogation, the passengers stated that Dr. R. Sridharan, MP had known about their attempt to smuggle the goods and on arrival he received them and ensured clearance. On further investigation, it was revealed that Dr. Sridharan had been aiding and abetting in smuggling activities. Apart from the adjudication proceedings, Dr. Sridharan and the two passengers were detained under COFEPOSA.

(ii) On 7.11.1995, Shri Kamal Nath, former Minister of Textiles, arrived from abroad. His PS, who was present to collect the baggage, reported, with the baggage in the dutiable channel (red channel) for payment of duty and declared the contents as crockery and cut glasses. The baggage was examined and a duty of Rs. 1,11,217 was collected. In addition, Redemption Fine of Rs. 25,000 and penalty of Rs. 10,000 was also imposed thereon.

Export of Silk

6. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for the export of silk by the end of 1995-96;

(b) the achievement made thereon;

(c) whether there is a shortfall on the silk export as anticipated for 1995-96;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to increase the export of silk?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) The exports of silk products from April-December, 1995 amounted to US$